

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-94 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Kindly add new claims 95-104, which correspond to claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,292,332 to Lee:

95. (New) A device for closing a puncture in a wall of an artery comprising:

an elongated member having a distal end, said elongated member sized to be fitted through a passageway leading to said puncture so that said distal end is disposed near said puncture in said artery,

separable plug means for plugging said puncture being disposed at said distal end of said elongated member,

movable guide means extending longitudinally through said elongated member and said plug means for extension through said puncture for guiding said plug means to said puncture, and

means for ejecting said plug means from said distal end of said elongated member so as to place said plug means in blocking relation with said puncture, so as to seal said puncture.

96. (New) A device as claimed in claim 95, wherein said movable guide means is a guide wire.

97. (New) A device as claimed in claim 95, further including a guide tube, said guide tube being extended through an adjacent skin area through the body containing the artery, through the puncture in the wall of the artery and into the artery enabling a cardiac catheter to be guidingly moved through said guide tube and into the artery, said guide tube and cardiac catheter being removed from the puncture prior to placing said plug means into blocking relation with said puncture.

98. (New) A device as claimed in claim 95, wherein said plug means is comprised of hemostatic, thrombogenic, bio-absorbable material.

99. (New) A device as claimed in claim 95, wherein said elongated member is a tubular member having a longitudinal axis and wherein said ejecting means is a pusher element being movable along said longitudinal axis for expelling said plug means.

100. (New) A device as claimed in claim 99, wherein said pusher element includes means for engaging a person's thumb, and wherein said tubular member includes means for engaging a person's fingers so that said pusher element may be moved along said longitudinal axis.

101. (New) A device as claimed in claim 95, wherein said plug means includes an orifice therethrough, said guide means being disposed through said orifice, said orifice automatically closing when said guide means is removed therefrom.

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102. (New) A device for closing a puncture in a wall of an artery comprising:

an elongated member having a distal end, said elongated member sized to be fitted through a passageway leading to said puncture so that said distal end is disposed near said puncture in said artery,

a separable plug member for plugging said puncture being disposed at said distal end of said elongated member,

a movable guide element extending longitudinally through said elongated member and said plug member for extension through said puncture for guiding said plug member to said puncture, and

an ejecting mechanism for ejecting said plug member from said distal end of said elongated member so as to place said plug member in blocking relation with said puncture, so as to seal said puncture.

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103. (New) A method of closing a puncture in a wall of an artery made for the purpose of moving an elongated cardiac catheter into the artery in which an exterior guide tube is extended through a passage leading to the puncture

and through the puncture in the wall of the artery and into the artery so as to enable the catheter to be guidingly moved through the guide tube and into the artery, the method comprising the steps of:

withdrawing the cardiac catheter from the guide tube,

extending a plug having a removable guide wire extending longitudinally therethrough so that the guide wire extends from the plug through said puncture,

moving the guide tube outwardly so that it no longer extends within the puncture and leaves the guide wire extending through the puncture,

moving the plug inwardly along the guide wire into blocking relation with said puncture, and

withdrawing the guide wire from the plug so as to leave the plug sealed in blocking relation with said puncture.

104. (New) A method of closing a puncture in a wall of an artery comprising the steps of:

inserting a removable guide wire through said puncture into the artery;

threading a plug over said guide wire so that the guide wire extends from the plug through said puncture,

moving the plug inwardly along the guide wire into blocking relation with said puncture, and